



FEBRUARY 2014

Heart and History

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Minding Your Money

A Profile of the Office of Treasurer and Tax Collector

Mention the word “tax” and you will hardly hear a positive remark. But that’s not the case when it comes to the Los Angeles County Office of Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC).

The Treasurer and Tax Collector is the County’s “money” department. It is responsible for billing, collecting, disbursing, investing, safeguarding, and even borrowing money and properties on behalf of the County, other governmental agencies, and private individuals as stipulated by law. TTC interfaces less with the public than it does with other County departments.

Most of the department’s interaction with the public relates to tax collection. “We listen a lot,” says Mark J. Saladino, Treasurer and Tax Collector. “Our goal is to get information to people more simply.”

Sixteen years ago, TTC had no website. Now, it has many means of outreach to alert the public on information vital to their much cherished possession – their homes – and allow them to obtain information more efficiently. The Treasurer and Tax Collector has an informative and interactive website, a robust public counter on the first floor of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in downtown Los Angeles, an email notification system that sends out tax information, as well as a third-party notification system geared toward older people. Third-party notification is a system whereby the taxpayer signs up for official notices to be sent to another person in addition to the taxpayer.

The Dotson Notice is another means of notification and public outreach. It is named after a veteran who was evicted from his home after having failed to pay his property taxes not knowing that he had an outstanding balance. He has since passed on but was able to secure his property back. The

Dotson Notice is sent out in August and alerts taxpayers that they have outstanding, unpaid taxes from a prior year.



Unbeknownst to many, TTC has a Coins to Cash Program for County employees with their ID. Located on the first floor of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, the program exchanges your coins to cash without a charge. It’s open every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (except during peak property tax season). Check it out!

In the event of a death when there is no apparent heir who is willing and able to act as administrator or executor of the estate, the Treasurer and Tax Collector takes over as the Public Administrator, handling the home and property of everyone from the rich and famous to the ordinary citizen. It has handled the estate of a Saudi princess, a Russian film producer, and an entertainment photographer. And in case you’re interested, some of the items in possession are sold at monthly auctions in the TTC’s warehouse in the City of Industry.

The partnerships TTC has forged with County departments have increased customer service in spite of some budgetary constraints. “We’ve re-assigned staff, and we have become more efficient in order to deal with the increased workload,” says Saladino.

To keep TTC staff abreast on what goes on in the department, a newsletter, “The Money Minder,” is published quarterly. Also on a quarterly basis, a departmental recognition ceremony called Treasurer and Tax Collector Employee

TTC

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Natural History Museum

(213) 763-DINO

www.nhm.org

Ongoing – Becoming Los Angeles

Through April 13 – Traveling the Silk Road

Through August 3 – Just Add Water

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

(323) 857-6010

www.lacma.org

Through April 20 – David Hockney: The Jugglers

Through June 6 – Kaz Oshiro: Chasing Ghosts at Charles White Elementary School Gallery

Through June 22 – Agnes Varda in Californialand

Through July 20 – Futbol: The Beautiful Game

Through July 27 – Calder and Abstraction: From Avant-Garde to Iconic

Center Theatre Group

(213) 628-2772

www.centertheatregroup.org

- **Ahmanson Theatre**

March 4 through April 13 – Harmony

- **Kirk Douglas Theatre**

February 25 through March 16 – 50 Shades! The Musical

March 1 – Hope: Part II of A Mexican Trilogy

- **Mark Taper Forum**

Through March 9 – Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

February 22 through March 16 – Billy Budd

Walt Disney Concert Hall

February 26 – Tchaikovskyfest: Shakespeare Fantasy

March 22 – Hugh Masekela: 75th Birthday Celebration

March 25 – Liza Minnelli

April 26 – Cheyenne Jackson: Music of the Mad Men Era

Grand Park

www.grandparkla.org

February 19 – Lunch A La Park

February 19 – Lunchtime Yoga reTREAT

February 25 – Downtown Farmers' Market



Visit <http://hr.lacounty.gov> for
information on employment
opportunities with the
County of Los Angeles



Members of the Board

Don Knabe

Chairman

Fourth District

Gloria Molina

First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas

Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky

Third District

Michael D. Antonovich

Fifth District

D | H | R

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edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

Check out the DIGEST at

<http://dhrdcap.co.la.ca.us/jic/digest/>



by **Mark Richman, M.D., M.P.H.**
Physician Specialist, Emergency Medicine
Olive View-UCLA Medical Center
and Amy Skelton, Student Volunteer

Black Physician Pioneers

February is Black History Month. In celebration, we are highlighting Black American physicians who have contributed to the American medical profession since the beginning of the nation. Do you recognize some of these pioneers in their field?

Who am I?

1. First Black American Surgeon General
2. First Black American male Surgeon General
3. Black American surgeon and pioneer in blood banking for whom a Los Angeles medical school is named and whose work established the basis for the American Red Cross Blood Bank
4. Founded first non-segregated hospital in the U.S.
5. Former UCLA ophthalmologist who was the first Black American female doctor to patent a medical invention ("Laserphaco Probe") and was co-founder of the American Institution for the Prevention of Blindness
6. Former Johns Hopkins pediatric neurosurgeon famous for separating conjoined twins
7. First Black American physician
8. First Black American female physician
9. Chairman of Cedars-Sinai Department of Neurosurgery, world-renowned neurosurgeon, and founding member of the North American Skull Base Society

I am...

1. Dr. Joycelyn Elders (Surgeon General 1993-1994)
2. Dr. David Satcher (Surgeon General 1998-2002)
3. Dr. Charles Drew (Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, founded 1966)
4. Dr. Daniel Hale Williams (1856-1931)
5. Dr. Patricia Bath (born 1942)
6. Dr. Ben Carson (born 1951)
7. Dr. James Derham (1757-1802)
8. Dr. Rebecca Crumpler (1831-1895)
9. Dr. Keith Black (born 1957)

The Public Defender Client Clothing Closet:

The Best Closet in the World

Public Defenders know that no matter how easy Hollywood makes it appear, going to trial in a criminal case is always a perilous venture – if only because their clients' liberty is at stake. It is also the first time a person charged with a crime must face a jury made up of a panel of his or her peers, all of whom must decide guilt or innocence based on the evidence presented.



Public Defender Ron Brown surveys the central Client Clothing Closet.

But what about first impressions – those prejudgments jurors can't help but make as soon as the accused enters a courtroom? Schooled by TV, which can frequently depict anyone sitting at the defense table as being automatically guilty, how much more likely is the jury to convict if the client is already dressed like a convict?

As one Public Defender puts it, "If my client enters the courtroom wearing his jail blues, he immediately becomes the odd man out. But what if he's dressed in civilian clothes? This commonality with the rest of humanity can't help but *improve* his outlook, but it also allows the jury to concentrate on the facts of the case and nothing else."

Attorneys in the Los Angeles County Public Defender's (PD) Office maintain Client Clothing Closets at their own expense at virtually every Public Defender location. These attorneys contribute their time, clothing, and funds to ensure that their clients are truly judged on the evidence rather than on unfair prejudice. And every year, like clockwork, when the call goes out via the PD intranet for donations of clothes and cash to ensure the annual \$1,000 needed to maintain these clothes, within a week, both the closet and the account are full once more.

Update to “The Works” Mobile Application

Are you tired of seeing vehicles illegally parked on front lawns in your neighborhood? Frustrated by graffiti on public buildings, in local parks, and at other landmarks? The County of Los Angeles has a solution for you. The Department of Public Works recently launched an update to “The Works” iPhone app to provide more solutions and expand functionality to three other County departments.

Initially launched in 2012, “The Works” app enables constituents to connect with the County to request services and report possible violations. Residents can now interact with the Departments of Parks and Recreation, Public Health, and Regional Planning by:

- Requesting facility and trail maintenance at County parks, as well as reporting potential health and safety concerns.
- Reporting potential public health violations at hotels, motels and apartments—such as unclear or cloudy pool water, broken pool gates or fences, and missing pool lights or drain covers.
- Reporting possible property violations, including excessive vegetation, junk or trash; illegal parking; inoperable vehicles; occupied RVs; and improper signs or banners.

Users can submit a detailed description of an issue and attach related site photos. While not required, users may provide contact information for additional follow-up. They are also able to see status updates to their request in real time when they subsequently access the app. The app targets users in the County’s unincorporated areas, as well as incorporated cities that contract with the County. The app is able to determine the appropriate agency based on the address or GPS coordinates. If a user requests a service that is handled by a local city they will be provided with a phone number of that city for further investigation.

For more information and to download the app, visit: <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/theworks/>.

LACoFD Launches Firefighter Preparatory Seminars

In January, the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) hosted its inaugural Firefighter Preparatory Seminar at Western University in Pomona. The event is the first in a series of seminars that will be held through May of this year to help interested candidates prepare for the upcoming Firefighter Trainee exam. The one-day, eight-hour workshop is part of a recruiting effort LACoFD has been conducting over the past year to engage the public and prepare potential firefighter candidates for the rigors of this lifesaving profession. Members of LACoFD’s Human Resources and firefighting training teams are presenting this information as part of the process to hire the right candidates to serve as members of their organization.

Among the topics to be discussed at these informational sessions are an introduction to the fire service, recruit and probationary firefighter expectations, written test preparation, oral interview preparation, introduction to the background check process, health and fitness, and the requirements of the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). LACoFD’s goal is to ensure each candidate is fully prepared for the examination process, as the cost and investment involved in hiring and training a recruit is significant. If a candidate is unable to fulfill the requirements of the position, the loss is substantial for both the recruit and the department.

Efforts are underway to present this seminar in all three County operational regions. The seminar at Pomona serves as the East Region location, and will be repeated on March 29, 2014 and May 31, 2014. In the Central Region, seminars will be offered at the Carson Community Center on March 1, 2014 and May 17, 2014. Additional dates are being scheduled at this time for seminars in the North Region. Candidates may register for these sessions online at <http://fire.lacounty.gov/>.



Fire Chief Daryl Osby inspecting Recruit Class 138.

Photo by Douglas Morrison

Share Your Heart and Your Home

Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent



Hearts, flowers, and above all, LOVE....what better gifts for that special day in February? Imagine not having someone to share your love with on Valentine's Day or any day for that matter?

For some of our children growing up in group homes or foster homes, this is often their reality. Let's make it a different outcome now and forever by adopting a child from foster care and encouraging others to do the same.

Keyonnie (age 6) and DreAnthony (age 3) are two siblings ready to share their hearts with that special family. Watching these two bonded siblings brings an instant smile to your face.

Keyonnie is a natural born big sister who looks after her baby brother with an eagle's eye. She is articulate, polite, loving and bright and she clearly has a special love for her baby brother. Placed in separate homes, Keyonnie's face lights up with pure joy when she is able to see DreAnthony.

DreAnthony clearly has the same affection for his big sister. He follows her every move and loves to keep up with her whether it is playing basketball, running, or just playing together.



Photo by Siri Kaur

Keyonnie has no problem stopping what she is doing to help DreAnthony with tasks he has not yet mastered. DreAnthony does have some special needs related to his physical development. But don't let this fool you, because he's very bright and understands everything. He will need a little extra help and additional services to master certain skills to become all he can be in life.

With the right family in their corner, the sky is the limit for these adorable kids. Be that family!

To learn more about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, please call (888) 811-1121.

Departments Partner to Provide Jobs for Vets

The County's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and the Department of Human Resources (DHR) have created a new partnership to enhance employment opportunities for veterans.

The new partnership calls for a DHR representative to be onsite at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, 1816 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles 90015. DHR staff will be there as part of the County's Veterans' Internship Program. They will work onsite on Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on Thursdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

Services offered will range from assisting veterans in navigating DHR's website to offering help and guidance for veterans and their families who want to pursue a job with the County of Los Angeles.

"Our veterans, brave men and women, have sacrificed to ensure our liberty and freedom," said Ruth Wong, Director of DMVA. "As they return home, we want to make sure they have the resources to successfully transition from military to civilian life."

"The Veterans' Internship Program offers paid, full-time temporary employment providing on-the-job training and work experience to qualified veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States," said Lisa M. Garrett, Director of Personnel.

E-cigarettes: What You Need to Know

It seems that e-cigarettes are everywhere these days. “Vaping,” as it is commonly known, has grown dramatically in the United States since first being introduced in 2007. As e-cigarette use has grown, so has confusion about whether the devices are subject to the same rules and regulations as other tobacco products in the workplace. Despite popularity of e-cigarettes, very little is known about their long-term health effects. Los Angeles County is committed to public health and reducing health and safety risks to those it serves and employs.

If one of your new year’s resolutions is to lead a healthy, tobacco-free life, now is the time to make a quit attempt! The

The Department of Public Health recommends the use of proven treatments—not e-cigarettes—to double your chance of success. Nicotine is a very addictive drug, and people usually make several tries before they successfully quit. Each time you try to quit, you can learn what works for you and what situations are problematic. Using proven cessation treatments, such as U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications and/or individual, group or phone counseling, can double your chance of success.

The California Smokers’ Helpline offers free, confidential counseling and resources to help you quit. Call 1-800-NO-BUTTS (1-800-662-8887) or visit www.laquits.com.



**The 2014 March of Dimes Campaign has begun!
To learn about how you can contribute to the
fight for healthy babies, please contact your
department’s March of Dimes Coordinator.**



**You can also contact the Office of
Workplace Programs at
workplaceprograms@ceo.lacounty.gov
for additional information.**



Cutting Edge Meets Compassion

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center continues to advance in the forefront of cardiovascular care with a new cardiac procedure to replace aortic valves known as Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR). TAVR is an FDA-approved minimally invasive procedure that saves lives of patients considered too high risk for traditional open-heart surgical procedures.

TAVR is used to treat patients with aortic stenosis, an inflammatory disease of the aortic valve that causes progressive calcification and immobility of the valve leaflets. This results in restriction of blood flow out of the heart and leads to limiting symptoms such as shortness of breath, chest pain, and heart failure. Once symptomatic, without Aortic Valve Replacement (AVR), on average, 50% of patients survive two years. TAVR is performed by inserting a new aortic valve across the diseased valve using catheter-based technology via small incisions through the patient's leg or chest wall. The procedure has been rigorously tested in clinical trials over the past five years prior to FDA approval. The procedure results in improved long-term survival and has an additional positive long-term cost benefit by reducing costs of recurring hospital readmissions for heart failure.

"This is a remarkable procedure that has been available to patients in large academic and private medical centers," says Dr. Quang Bui, Director of the Transcatheter Valve Program and assistant clinical professor at UCLA's Geffen School of Medicine. "Providing the TAVR procedure to patients in the South Bay community and specifically to the underserved patients of Los Angeles County community speaks to Harbor-UCLA's long history of providing breakthrough medicine to those with limited means. This is a revolutionary technology which offers patients in the South Bay a new medical therapy and hope for a better, symptom-free life."

Quality and Productivity Commission Best and Shared Practices – MARS

In an effort to improve efficiency and the environment, the Auditor-Controller, in partnership with the Internal Services Department, moved from a paper-based mileage claiming and approval process to a web-based solution.

MARS (Mileage Authorization and Reimbursement System) is a user-friendly system, which allows employees to easily and conveniently file reimbursement claims for mileage and parking online.

"The Quality and Productivity Commission promotes workplace innovations such as MARS to improve employee productivity and enhance service quality and efficiency," said Commissioner Edward McIntyre, Chair.

In addition, MARS is a stellar example of an environmentally responsible practice. For more information, contact the Auditor-Controller's office.

(The Quality and Productivity Commission will submit a regular column which will highlight a department initiative featured as one of its Best and Shared Practices.)

WeTip
WELFARE FRAUD
1 (800) 87-FRAUD

Rideshare L.A. County!

Ever wonder how your shopping and purchases can affect the environment?

Even though you may Rideshare, purchasing items that could be made in China is contributing to pollution here and all over the U.S. West Coast. Chinese pollution is out of control and is contributing to the pollution in the western part of the U.S.

Ridesharing is a great way to help clean the air. Now, we can do even more when we shop by looking for items made in the U.S.A.

Making Every Drop Count

How the Department of Parks and Recreation is doing its part to conserve water during the drought emergency

With the urgency of California's water shortage underlined by the recent declaration of a statewide drought emergency, the Department of Parks and Recreation is reinforcing the importance of water conservation at all parks and facilities operated by the department.

The Department is working in partnership with a Department of Public Works-led task force that is exploring ways to reduce water consumption. Historically, Department initiatives to cut water usage in light of drought conditions can be traced back to 2008 — when the Board of Supervisors directed all County departments to make significant reductions in potable water consumption.

By August 2012, with funding support from the Chief Executive Office, state-of-the-art smart irrigation controllers were installed at nearly two dozen parks across the County — including Belvedere Community Regional Park, Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, the Hollywood Bowl, Cerritos Community Regional Park, and Arcadia Community Regional Park. These smart controllers, which water landscaping according to real-time monitoring of environmental and weather conditions, have proven vital to the Department's ongoing efforts to cut water usage.

Another meaningful step to reduce water consumption can be found at El Cariso Golf Course — where, in collaboration with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), the Department implemented a turf reduction project that involved replacing seven acres of turf with low water-use landscaping. This initiative not only resulted in dramatic reductions in potable water use for landscape irrigation, but also delivered aesthetic benefits that have enhanced the playing experience for golfers. The water savings have been so extraordinary that the Department received a \$380,000 DWP rebate as a result of the project.

At Pathfinder Park Community Regional Park, implementation of a recycled water conversion project has resulted in 100 percent water savings

by converting potable water to recycled water for landscape irrigation use.

Ongoing efforts to reduce water usage by an additional 10 percent are monitored by a Department-wide Water and Energy Task Force, which has issued a number of recommendations that have been implemented since December 2013. Some of them include:

- Classification of all water work orders as a leading priority, second only to matters related to health and safety.
- Implementation of an irrigation frequency reduction pilot program at all park facilities during the winter months (Dec. 1, 2013 through Feb. 28, 2014).
- Aeration of turf at a minimum of four times per year — to loosen compacted soil and improve water/fertilizer absorption.
- Reinforcement of basic water conservation behaviors such as reporting and repairing leaky fixtures, use of brooms and water brooms for sidewalk and walkway cleaning, and when possible, upgrading older bathroom facilities with water-conserving fixtures.

In its role as a champion of environmental stewardship, the Department looks forward to doing its part to help the state bring down water usage for the benefit of all Californians.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control presents:

My Furry Valentine

An Adoption Event

Agoura Animal Care Center-
29525 Agoura Rd., Agoura 91301
Baldwin Park Animal Care Center-
4275 N. Elton St., Baldwin Park 91706
Carson / Gardena Animal Care Center-
216 W. Victoria, St., Gardena 90248
Castaic Animal Care Center-
31044 N. Charlie Canyon Rd., Castaic 91384
Downey Animal Care Center-
11258 S. Garfield Ave., Downey 90242
Lancaster Animal Care Center-
5210 W. Ave I., Lancaster 93536

**Fri, Sat, Sun,
Feb 14, 15, 16
2014
10 AM- 5 PM**

**\$14 adoption
fee!**
(all other fees still
apply)



Jail Enterprises Unit

County departments and their employees can save money and reduce tax burden while helping a great cause.

The Sheriff's Department Jail Enterprises Unit's mission is "To provide appropriate occupational and workplace skills to inmates, create departmental cost savings, create new revenue streams, and provide philanthropy to worthy, needy organizations." This is supported by selling the products and services produced in the training programs to government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and County employees. We do not sell to the general public.

Revenues are expended to worthwhile inmate programs that help reduce recidivism. The funds are overseen by the Inmate Welfare Commission.

Print Shop

The Print shop is the largest vocational shop. It teaches 80 inmates how to operate 19 types of printing, binding, and collating machines. They have printed projects for many County departments and nonprofits. The shop is capable of making forms, envelopes, magazines, posters, brochures, NCR (carbonless triplicates), and much more!

Sign Shop

Along with metal, plastic, and magnetic signs, this Shop can make banners as large as 10 feet by 150 feet, decals for vehicles, windows and walls, promotional items such as coffee mugs, ceramic coasters, golf balls, and beautiful engraved plaques for awards and acknowledgments.

Pitchess Detention Center Nursery

The Nursery cultivates and nurtures over 30,000 trees and plants. We sell at prices substantially lower than those available through commercial retailers. One gallon pots are \$2.50, 5 gallon - \$10, 15 gallon - \$20, 24 inch box trees are \$30, and 36 inch box trees are \$40.

Pet Grooming

The pet grooming shop provides inmates with training they can use to work in various animal care enterprises. They care for employees' pets and K-9s and groom dogs from the local animal shelter to increase adoption.

Wood Shop

The wood shop creates the most wonderful wooden toys, signs, furniture, and bird houses. Birdhouses are placed in several of Public Works' Smart Gardening Program Gardens, built in local elementary schools. Wooden toys are passed out at Christmas to needy children.



Embroidery Shop

The newest shop embroiders caps, polo shirts, aprons, name tapes, you name it! It has the ability to do one to hundreds of products. The cost is about half of commercial industries.

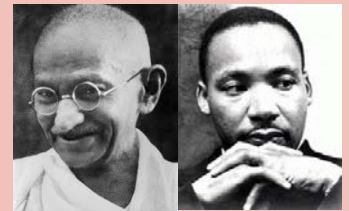
Bike Shop

The bike shop services and repairs bikes for County departments and employees. Abandoned bikes are repaired and given away at Christmas to needy children.

Find Out More

Call (661) 294-6311, email JailEnterprisesUnit@LASD.org, or visit www.jeu.lasd.org.

Season of Nonviolence



The Board of Supervisors declared January 30, 2014 through April 4, 2014 as the Season of Nonviolence in Los Angeles County. The public is urged to reflect on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and all practitioners of nonviolent direct action as an effective means of addressing injustice.

In 1964, Dr. King stated that "nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon, which cuts without wounding and ennoble the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals." It marks the 64 calendar days between the anniversary of the assassination of Mohandas K. Gandhi on January 30 and that of Dr. King on April 4. In the midst of the 1968 sanitation workers strike in Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. King was assassinated. Almost two years earlier, Gandhi, an Indian leader who employed nonviolent direct action in pursuit of India's independence from British rule, was assassinated. Both men were victims of gun violence. In honor of their legacies, the purpose of the Season of Nonviolence is to teach that every person can move forward in peace through daily nonviolent choices and actions.

All About Us

LA COUNTY STARS!



JANUARY 2014

Service Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness

Hanu Damerla, M.D.

Mental Health

with Dr. Marvin J. Southard, DSW, Director
and Supervisor Don Knabe



JANUARY 2014

Fiscal Sustainability

Sgt. Roger E. Wallace

Sheriff's Department

with Supervisor Don Knabe



Dr. Hanu Damerla is a Supervising Mental Health Psychiatrist and the Medical Director for the Juvenile Justice Camp Mental Health Programs. He was instrumental in bringing the mental health related provisions of the

Department of Justice Settlement Agreement into full compliance. As such, the Departments of Mental Health and Probation have benefitted from his work. Dr. Damerla was recognized by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry as a Distinguished Fellow. His swift implementation of a Psychiatry Peer Review process impressed the Department of Justice monitors and contributed to improved care. He has greatly enhanced the availability of qualified psychiatrists in the difficult to hire areas where the Probation camps are located.



Sergeant Roger Wallace works for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Parks Bureau. He was responsible for taking the initiative to acquire a U.S. Coast Guard Safeboat from the Federal Excess Property Program. Sergeant Wallace identified the

need to replace an aging boat fleet at Parks Bureau without incurring the high cost of purchasing new vessels by acquiring the retired Safeboat valued at approximately \$175,000. He saved the Department about \$164,000 because the Federal Excess Program only required a service fee of approximately \$11,000. Since the first boat was acquired and placed into service in the Parks Bureau at Pyramid Lake, two more Safeboats have been received at an additional cost savings of several hundred thousand dollars.

LA COUNTY STARS!*



JANUARY 2014

Service Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness

Marina del Rey Maintenance Dredging Team

Beaches and Harbors

with Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, Fire Department, and Sheriff's Department

Carol Baker ♦ Greg Campbell ♦ Michael Carriles ♦ Amy Caves ♦ Alisa Chepeian ♦ Cesar Espinosa
Thomas Faughnan ♦ Reginald Gautt ♦ John Giles ♦ Mike Inscore ♦ Charlotte Miyamoto
♦ Debra Talbot ♦ Reggie Todd ♦ Bryan White ♦ Jen Wu ♦ Adriana Zarate-Lee

Through the efforts of the Marina del Rey (MdR) Maintenance Dredging Team, close to 800,000 cubic yards of material was removed from the Marina's harbor entrance. Of this, 500,000 cubic yards of contaminated material was taken to the Port of Long Beach and used as infill for the Middle Harbor Project; 300,000 cubic yards of clean material was used as beneficial reuse to nourish Dockweiler State Beach and Redondo Beach. The County saved an estimated \$70 million in hazardous waste disposal fees by not having to take the contaminated dredged material to a landfill.

***LA COUNTY STARS!** recognizes and celebrates exceptional achievements of County employees to promote and reward performance consistent with the Values, Mission, and Goals of the County Strategic Plan.

“Women of the Year”

29th Annual Awards and Scholarship Luncheon

The Board of Supervisors and the Commission for Women will hold its 29th Annual Women of the Year Awards and Scholarship Luncheon on March 10, 2014 at the Grand Hall of the Music Center.

The following women are saluted for their work:

First District: **Alma Martinez**, Chief of Staff, First District, Board of Supervisors

Second District: **Linda Griego**, President and CEO, Griego Enterprises

Candace Bond McKeever, President, Strategic Solutions Group, Inc.

Third District: **Rosi Dagit**, Environmental Scientist & Educator, Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District

Va Lecia Adams Kellum, Ph.D., Executive Director, St. Joseph Center

Fourth District: **Mariko Kahn**, Executive Director, Pacific Asian Counseling Services

Fifth District: **Judy A. Cooperberg, M.S., C.P.R.P.**, Executive Director, Antelope Valley Services for Mental Health America of Los Angeles

Joan Schmidt, East Valley Editor, Mountain View News

The following are Community-At-Large Awardees:

Business/Labor Category: **Kathryn Suto**, Vice President & General Manager, Bloomingdale's Century City

Education Category: **Brenda Lyle Dyson Robinson**, Retired Teacher, Lancaster School District

Health Category: **Dr. Robina M. Smith**, Physician/Owner, Treasure Your Chest, LLC

Law/Public Safety Category: **Pamela Booth**, Assistant District Attorney, Administration, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

A portion of the proceeds from these events will be used to provide education scholarships for young at-risk women.

For sponsorship information or information on the luncheon, contact Commission staff at (213) 974-1455 or visit <http://lacew.lacounty.gov>. To purchase tickets or a table, go to <http://bosevents.lacounty.gov>.

Fire Station 158 Donates Toys to House Fire Victims

In December, members of Fire Station 158 were the epitome of the Christmas spirit when they presented gifts to a family who lost almost everything in a fire. Fire Captain James Keehn's crew responded to an electrical fire that had ripped through the family's home 10 days earlier. However, he and his crew decided it would not be the end of the incident when they drove away from the family's burned out apartment after extinguishing the blaze.

The family credits the mother for saving their lives by seeing smoke coming from the garage and not opening the garage door. Everything in the garage burned, including toys and clothing, and all items in their apartment above the garage were smoke damaged.

When their Gardena home went up in flames, so did all thoughts of a Merry Christmas. But out of tragedy, comes generosity. Gardena Chamber of Commerce President Wanda Love, who reported the fire, wanted to help. She personally donated toys to make sure that the children had gifts and their local church helped them with temporary housing.

When the family came to Fire Station 158, Santa's sleigh looked a little different on Christmas Eve with a red fire engine and a special delivery for one family. When Fire Captain Jasmine Segura and her personnel gave the children toys, they had the biggest smiles on their faces since the fire had ravaged their home.

“We want to show them that not all is lost, and there is a sense of community that people want to come together and help,” said Love.



With the family are Fire Fighter Paramedic Tom May, Fire Fighter Paramedic Doug Fascenelli, Fire Captain James Keehn, Fire Fighter Paramedic Sara Rathbun, Fire Captain Jasmine Segura, and seated Fire Fighter Paramedic Jenny Teer. Photo by Laura Walters

Retirees

*Congratulations to the following employees
who are joining the ranks of the retired
after their many years of service to the County of Los Angeles:*

45+ Years

HEALTH SERVICES: Margarita C. Valdivia

LACERA: Allene Davis

SHERIFF: Leroy D. Baca, Kathy J. Hayashi

40+ Years

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Marcus G. Leon

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Hazel Johnson

HEALTH SERVICES: Ruth A. Barros, Loretta Bennett,
Jessie M. Craig, James Fleming, Carla Nino, Bonnie S. Price

HUMAN RESOURCES: Magdalena Avila

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Rita H. Smith

PUBLIC WORKS: Ivan N. Mayhand

SHERIFF: James G. Bailey, Patricia Hocking

35+ Years

ASSESSOR: Brigitte W. Sit

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Ester Y. Bryant

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Marian Gallegos

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Joyce D. Becker

COUNTY COUNSEL: Albert D. Kelly

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Olivia R. Navarro

HEALTH SERVICES: Sudhir K. Anand, Mookda
Cheonsookasa, Erlinda V. Dario, Carol E. Jones, John S.
Masatani, Elvira T. Santos, Lee R. Swanson

HUMAN RESOURCES: Sandra K. Taylor

INTERNAL SERVICES: Tony L. Castro, Robert C.
Johnson

PARKS & RECREATION: Santiago Castillo

PUBLIC WORKS: Helen R. McGreggor

SHERIFF: Donald H. Matern

SUPERIOR COURT: Frances G. Johnson

30+ Years

ASSESSOR: Dwight T. Ong

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Josie Hinojosa

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Curtistine Freeman

FIRE: Bruce D. Dean, Ken R. Maddams, Michael Morales,
David K. Schwartz, Lorraine E. Escobedo

HEALTH SERVICES: Daranee Aunskul, Deborah E.
Gooden, Margaret R. Mc Cowan, Christine L. Nakagawa,
Salvador Romo

MENTAL HEALTH: Frances A. Keefe

PUBLIC DEFENDER: William C. Hoffman Jr.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Patricia A. McKenzie, Chariesse L.
Smith

PUBLIC WORKS: Paul R. Boudreau

SHERIFF: Robert O. Blanks, David J. Bobo, Samuel R.
Dendekker Jr., Floyd R. Hayhurst, Foster E. Johns, II, Ricardo
Perez, Kevin D. Roberts, Victor D. Rodriguez, Carl E.
Thomas, Juan M. Velasco, Ronald S. Williams, Sandra L.
Carrillo

SUPERIOR COURT: Rosemary Baskom, Yvonne M.
Cooper, Maureen K. Dewey

25+ Years

ASSESSOR: Shari Benzon, Larry J. Patton, Roger G. Walls

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Regina Hayes-Dobbs

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Janet M. Logan

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Louise Peterman

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Shirley S. Sun

FIRE: Michael L. Bryant, Phillip J. Franco, Eugene M.
Ketelsleger

HEALTH SERVICES: Cristeta F. Cabanban, Ricca T.
Dedeaux, Hector Diaz, Andree A. Stecker, Teresa Velasquez,
Sonia T. Villaluz

INTERNAL SERVICES: Mark Wey

MENTAL HEALTH: Christopher K. Chung, Daniel I. Kim,
Perlita B. Ong, Rizalina D. Pasco, Scott M. Wallach

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Laurin M. Hayes

PUBLIC HEALTH: Bertha H. Solis, Herbert Sowe

PUBLIC WORKS: Daniel J. Evans, Arthur Lopez, Hans W.
Riedel

SHERIFF: Linda A. Becker, David L. Bly, Montel L. Bryant,
Ross N. Dodson, Michael J. Rodriguez

SUPERIOR COURT: Catherine N. Mires, Michael Stearn

TTC

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Recognition (or “TATER” – with an anthropomorphic potato as mascot) is held to recognize employees who have gone above and beyond. In addition, the ceremony recognizes and honors those who have reached a milestone of County service (such as 10 years, 20 years, etc.).

The Office of Treasurer and Tax Collector—minding your money with care.





Tax Season is also Tax Scam Season

Follow these tips to keep from becoming a victim of identity theft, fraud

Tax season is now underway. That means it is also the season for tax scams.

Doing your taxes requires a lot of personal financial information. You send out paperwork or electronic files with your personal information to the IRS and others. Thieves are looking for any opportunity to get their hands on your information and eventually your money.

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) suggests you watch out for these tax-related schemes:

Refund Theft

An identity theft thief uses your Social Security number and other personal information to file a fraudulent tax refund claim. If they file a claim before you, you may experience a delay in getting your refund.

If you are the victim of this scam, complete IRS Form 14039 and call the Identity Theft Protection Specialized Unit at (800) 908-4490.

Phishing Scams

This scam occurs when a consumer receives a phony email which looks like it is from the IRS and asks you to send personal and bank account information. The IRS will never email you to ask for your personal information.

IRS Phone Scam

Recently, some consumers have received bogus calls from scammers alleging to be representatives of the IRS, threatening them unless they send money. The IRS will never call for your banking information or ask to be paid by wire transfer or pre-paid debit cards.

Here are some IRS tips to avoid tax scams:

- Do not carry your Social Security card or any documents with your Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number.

- Check your credit report every 12 months for free at www.annualcreditreport.com.
- Keep personal and financial information safe in your home.
- Protect computers with firewalls, anti-spam/virus software, updating security patches and changing passwords.
- Do not give information over the phone, through mail or online unless you have initiated the contact or you know who you are dealing with.

Tax Preparer Fraud

Be wise if you hire someone to do your taxes.

A good tax preparer will ask you questions and use your receipts to see if you are qualified for deductions. Some tax preparers make big promises, even if that means giving false information on your returns. Remember, even if someone else prepares your taxes, you are responsible for what you file and will face any penalties.

Here are some tips from the IRS when choosing a tax preparer:

- Be cautious of tax preparers who claim they can get larger refunds than anyone else.
- Avoid preparers who base their fee on a percentage of the refund.
- Use a reputable tax professional who signs your return and gives you a copy.
- Make sure they have a Preparer Tax Identification Number. Only attorneys, certified public accountants (CPAs), and enrolled agents can represent taxpayers before the IRS.
- Never agree to have any portion of your refund deposited into your tax preparer's bank account. Your refund should be sent to you.

If you need a reliable tax preparer, there are several tax preparation events sponsored by the California State Board of Equalization. Free tax preparation services will be available to households with an annual income of \$51,567 or less. Consumer Affairs will also be providing information:

- Saturday, March 8, 2014, Cal State Dominguez Hills, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Friday, March 14, 2014, Rio Hondo College, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For more information, visit <http://www.boe.ca.gov/members/horton/2014/vita.htm>.

For more information, contact DCA at (800) 593-8222.